



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

LAC-IEE-99-39

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Activity Location : El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti

Activity Title : Post-Hurricane Reconstruction of Public Health Care Systems in Central America and the Caribbean: Inter-Agency Agreement with DHHS/CDC

Activity Number : 598-0864

Funding : \$15,000,000

Life of Project : 1999-2002

IEE Prepared by : Carol Dabbs, LAC/RSD-PHN

Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion/Deferral

Bureau Threshold Decision : Concur with Recommendation

Comments:

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (iii) and (viii), a Categorical Exclusion is issued to all activities involving education, training, and technical assistance, and other actions that will not have an adverse impact on the natural or physical environment, as described in the IEE.

A Deferral is issued to activities under Intermediate Results 3.2.1 and 4.5 which are not yet clearly identified. A Supplemental IEE for these activities shall be submitted to LAC Bureau Environmental Officer for approval.

A Supplemental IEE shall be submitted to LAC BEO for any activities not specified in the IEE and the Program Description (Annex A) of the Interagency agreement, or if during design or implementation it becomes apparent that significant negative impacts might result from already described activities.

A summary of this decision shall be incorporated into the Interagency Agreement with CDC.

John McMahon Date 8/27/99

John McMahon
Acting Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Copy to : Tim Mahoney, Director, LAC/RSD
Copy to : Carol Dabbs, LAC/RSD-PHN
Copy to : Anne Dix, REA/CA
Copy to : Carleen Yocum, REA/CAR
Copy to : Sue Hill, LAC/SPM
Copy to : Tully Cornick, LAC/CEN
Copy to : IEE File

Initial Environmental Examination

Activity Location	:	El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and Haiti
Activity title	:	Post-Hurricane Reconstruction of Public Health Care Systems-Central America and the Caribbean
Activity Number	:	Inter-Agency Agreement With DHHS/CDC 598-0864
Funding	:	\$15,000,000
Life of Project	:	1999 to 2002
IEE Prepared by	:	Carol Dabbs, LAC/RSD-PHN
Recommended Threshold Decision	:	Categorical Exclusion, except Deferred Decision for Sub IR3.2.1 and Sub IR 4.5

Program Summary and Description: CDC/DHHS will coordinate closely with USAID missions in the countries listed above to rehabilitate disease surveillance systems and to use information for public health decisions; to increase the availability of trained epidemiologists in the region and to train other levels of health workers; to rehabilitate infectious disease and environmental health laboratory capacity; and to enhance the capacity of Ministries of Health to design and implement community-based prevention and control of disease. Other organizations that will work with CDC/DHHS to implement this activity include Association of Public Health Laboratories, the Training in Epidemiology and Public Health Intervention Network (TEPHINET), and the Pan American Health Organization. The purpose of the activity is to re-establish and sustain the capacity for assessment of health status and the early detection and effective response to outbreaks and changes in disease patterns.

Achievement of the purpose of the activity has been divided into four Intermediate Results, and includes:

IR1: Disease surveillance rehabilitated and information used for public health decisions

Sub IR 1.1 Effective health information systems (HIS) re-established and

regional system enhanced

Sub-IR 1.1.1 HIS in place and strengthened in 7 countries

Sub-IR 1.1.2 National and regional capacity to detect health problems, collect information, analyze data, and respond to information enhanced

Sub-IR 1.1.3 MOH capacity to plan and implement effective strategy for communications of scientific information enhanced, including links with existing PAHO, WHO, and other Field Epidemiology Training Program public health bulletins.

Sub-IR 1.2 Plan for effective public health Early Warning System (EWS) developed

Sub-IR 1.2.1 Preliminary assessment of the functional needs of the public health Early Warning System completed by the end of six months

Sub-IR 1.2.2 Public health EWS plan to serve as a blueprint for future implementation and a tiered approach to development of electronic communications infrastructure completed by the end of one year.

Sub-IR 1.3 Surveillance information is being used

Sub-IR 1.3.1 to guide prevention and control programs

Sub-IR 1.3.2 for epidemic preparedness and response

The activities to reach these results mainly involve training, capacity development, and research protocol design regarding health problems at national and local level, and are anticipated to cause no environmental impact.

Recommended Environmental Determination: All anticipated activities warrant Categorical Exclusions under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) -- "Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc)" -- and 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii) "Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings."

IR2: Increased availability of trained epidemiologists in the region and the training of other levels of health workers by these epidemiologists

- Sub-IR 2.1 A cadre of 38 field epidemiologists will be available for assignment to national and regional level posts within the Ministries of Health
- Sub-IR 2.2 Establish sustainable capacity to conduct field epidemiology training
- Sub-IR 2.3 Establish ongoing training in core public health skills by FETP staff, graduates and trainees for key health personnel to strengthen epidemiology at the local level

The activities to reach these results mainly involve training at national and local level, and are anticipated to cause no environmental impact.

Recommended Environmental Determination: All anticipated activities warrant Categorical Exclusions under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) -- "Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc)" -- and 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii) "Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings."

IR3: Infectious disease and environmental health laboratory capacity rehabilitated

- Sub-IR 3.1 Public health laboratory network within and between the seven countries established
 - Sub-IR 3.1.1 Country laboratory "Centers of Excellence" identified and established
- Sub-IR 3.2 Central and/or peripheral Public Health Laboratory infrastructure enhanced to meet essential requirements
 - Sub-IR 3.2.1 Laboratory facilities enhanced to meet essential physical requirements
 - Sub-IR 3.2.2 Public health laboratory equipment enhanced to meet testing needs
 - Sub-IR 3.2.3 Laboratory supplies and reagents available in sufficient quantities for testing
- Sub-IR 3.3 Quality assurance and quality control operations developed and adapted to each country
- Sub-IR 3.4 Central and peripheral laboratory personnel prepared and trained for testing specimens of priority disease areas and reporting results in a timely fashion
- Sub-IR3.5 Country and regional plans of action to prepare laboratories to handle surge capacity in emergency situations
- Sub-IR 3.6 Dengue training and proficiency testing capacities for Honduras established

The activities to reach these results mainly involve training, planning, and rebuilding of formerly existing capacity at regional, national, and local levels, and are anticipated to cause no environmental impact. Standard CDC and country-specific protocols for disposal of bio/chemical wastes will be followed, copies of which are on file in LAC/RSD-PHN.

Recommended Environmental Determination: All anticipated activities except Sub-IR 3.2.1., "Laboratory facilities enhanced to meet essential physical requirements" warrant Categorical Exclusions under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) -- "Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc)" -- and 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii) "Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings." As

the scale of the construction activities is not yet known, a deferred determination is recommended for Sub-IR 3.2.1., for which a supplemental IEE will be prepared once plans are developed.

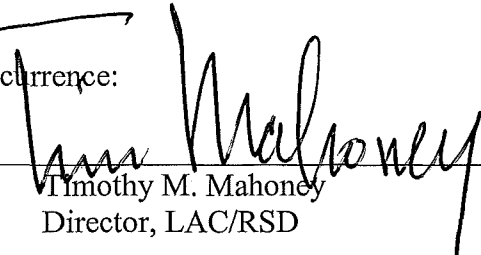
IR4: Capacity of Ministries of Health to design and implement community based prevention and control of disease programs institutionalized

- Sub-IR 4.1 Capacity to determine health priorities demonstrated
- Sub-IR 4.2 Capacity to analyze health problems demonstrated
- Sub-IR 4.3 Sound, appropriate health strategies and interventions chosen
- Sub-IR 4.4 Capacity to develop effective, cost-effective, appropriate plans enhanced
- Sub-IR 4.5 Prevention and control programs for priority diseases implemented
- Sub-IR 4.6 Capacity to develop strategies for community participation demonstrated
- Sub-IR 4.7 Forum for intra- and inter-sectorial cooperation established

This activity involves the selection of a country specific health problem(s) which will then be targeted for improvement. Since these health problems will not be selected until later in the life of the project after priority setting and community based interventions have been identified, the environmental impact can not be defined at this time. Possible interventions might be dengue control programs, sanitation improvements, plastic water bottles for clean water, etc. In these examples, neither the use of insecticides nor other sources of environmental impact is anticipated.

Recommended Environmental Determination: All anticipated activities except those under Sub-IR 4.5, "Prevention and control programs for priority diseases implemented" warrant Categorical Exclusions under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) -- "Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc)" -- and 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii) "Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings." As the health programs to be included under Sub-IR 4.5 are not yet known, a deferred determination is recommended for Sub-IR 4.5, for which a supplemental IEE will be prepared once the health programs to be included are determined.

Concurrence:



Timothy M. Mahoney
Director, LAC/RSD

date

8-28-99

Drafted by: C Dabbs: LAC/RSD-PHN, x20473, 10-Aug-99, last revised 08/27/99

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